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EDWARD ALBEE'S  
**WHO'S AFRAID  
OF VIRGINIA  
WOOLF?**

**OCTOBER 20 THROUGH NOVEMBER 5, 2023**

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**CHATTANOOGA  
THEATRE CENTRE**

presents

EDWARD ALBEE'S  
**WHO'S AFRAID  
OF VIRGINIA  
WOOLF?**



OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

director

**SUZANNE SMARTT**

scenic designer

**ADAM MIECIELICA**

lighting designer

**JEREMY CAMPBELL**

costume designer

**LIOMAR SOSA**

props master

**ANNIE COLLINS**

stage manager

**RODNEY STRONG**

assistant stage manager

**KRISTINA SELZER**

**WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?** is presented by special arrangement  
with Dramatists Play Service.

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## CAST

Martha..... WENDY TIPPENS  
George..... JOSH RUBEN  
Nick..... SANFORD “FORD” KNOX JR.  
Honey..... LINDSEY WILLS

## SETTING

George and Martha’s Home

Located near a small New England college

1962

## ACT ONE

FUN AND GAMES

*(10 Minute Intermission)*

## ACT TWO

WALPURGISCNACHT

*(10 Minute Intermission)*

## ACT THREE

THE EXORCISM

## PLEASE BE ADVISED

This production uses vapor cigarettes and  
a prop gun with a fake gun shot.

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# A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

## SUZANNE SMARTT

In the New England fall of October 1962, after a prestigious party with the university president, his glamorous daughter (Martha) and her intellectual history professor husband (George) invite the young, the beautiful, and the newly married and naively unsuspecting couple (Nick and Honey) back to their on-campus home for elegant post-party drinks. As the evening by moonlight deepens, George and Martha drown Nick and Honey in a whirlwind of emotional turbulence. Caught in a vortex of astounding abuse, sex, and falsehood... the drinks keep coming. By dawn, no one emerges from the night the same as they went in.

Edward Albee, American Theatre Legend, has won three TONY Awards for Best Play. His second play on Broadway in the 1962-63 Broadway season, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, won four TONYS -- Best Play, Best Actor, Best Actress, and Best Direction. In a raft of controversy, the play was also chosen for the 1963 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, except that...

"The award's (Pulitzer) advisory board – the trustees of Columbia University – objected to its profanity and sexual themes, and overruled the jury, awarding *no* Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1963." ~ Theatre World 62-63

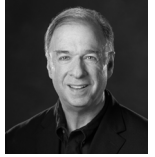
Albee went on to win three Pulitzers for Drama and two Drama Desk Awards.

Chattanooga Theatre Centre's production stars an extraordinary professional cast sporting decades of regional awards and lead roles. You'll see fiery, CTC multi-award winner Wendy Tippens (Martha) going mano a mano with the dynamic winner of last season's CTC Star Turn Award, Josh Ruben (George). Lindsey Wills and Ford Knox (Honey and Nick) are highly trained theatre professionals. Miss Wills with a B.A. in Theatre from Oglethorpe University brings an extensive, exceptional resume for such a young artist. Mr. Knox, noted regionally as a strong talent, gives as good as he gets. A quartet of inventive theatrical artists bring the turbulence, the midnight glamour, the hits, and all possessing with tortuous expertise, fire-shot repartee sarcasm. *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* is scorching hot. The language and emotions are raw. Brace yourself. There is no holding the turbulence back...

# MEET THE CAST



**FORD KNOX, JR.** (Nick) is happy to be back at CTC again performing in this dream role. He last acted at CTC in another dream role when he played Felix Unger in *The Odd Couple*. He most recently played as Professor Plum in *Clue*. He's had many other roles in town, which one of his favorites was Lenny in *Rumors*, and he has an unofficial world record for acting on stage for over 30 straight hours while performing *The Bald Soprano*. He absolutely loves acting, theatre, and film. He has a film degree from Cal State Northridge. He would like to let his cast mates know how very talented they all are and that he's really felt honored to work with them. He'd also like to give a shout out to his husband and daughters who he loves very much.



**JOSH RUBEN** (George) earned the "Star Turn Award" as Nostradamus in last season's smash-hit *Something Rotten*. Other notable CTC performances: *Spamalot*, *The Secret Garden*, *I Hate Hamlet*, *Leading Ladies*, *Moonlight & Magnolias*, and *Arsenic & Old Lace*. A graduate of Carnegie Mellon with a 30-year career as a professional Teaching Artist, Josh served on faculty of the Alliance Theatre for a decade with Atlanta's premier improv troupe, Laughing Matters, for 25 years. As Fine Arts Chair and Director of the award-winning Theatre Dept. at Northwest Whitfield HS, he's directed multiple regional/state championship-winning plays and Literary competitions. His students' success is due in part to the playwriting talents of wife, The Legendary Catherine Bolden. Special Thanks: the cast, crew, Suzanne Smartt, mother Leenie, and Jabberwocky – the 5lb. dragon terrier.



**WENDY TIPPENS** (Martha) made her stage debut at CTC 47 years ago, and thus began an enduring love affair with the stage. Now, many years and shows later, that love is still going strong! Some CTC productions that you may recognize Wendy from include *August: Osage County* as Violet Weston, *Sordid Lives* as LaVonda, *Misery* as Annie Wilkes, and *Hairspray* as Mrs. Pingleton. Wendy would like to dedicate this show to the man who claims to be her biggest fan, her Dad, Johnny Pursley.



**LINDSEY WILLS** (Honey) is happy to portray Honey in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* this fall. Her recent CTC appearances are Marvalyn/Rhonda in *Almost Maine*, Gerda in *The Hollow*, and Jane/Ms. DeBourgh in *Pride and Prejudice*. When she is not in rehearsal, Lindsey is working toward her M.Ed., as well as teaching 10th and 11th grade ELA at the Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy. She loves to rock climb, bake tasty treats, and explore new cities. She is thankful to share the stage with her talented cast-mates and honored to have been able to be directed by Suzanne Smartt again. She would like to thank her fiancé Christian for his unending love and support, her friends for cheering her on, and her family for always matching her enthusiasm when she talks about rehearsal.

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# MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



**SUZANNE SMARTT** (Director) *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* is Suzanne's 30th collaboration with Chattanooga Theatre Centre. Last season she loved directing *August: Osage County*. Through her years at CTC, she directed several award winners, including *Rumors*, *Smoke on the Mountain*, *Sanders Family Christmas*, *Steel Magnolias*, *All in the Timing*, and *Always... Patsy Cline*. A winner of multiple Miss Annie awards; two of her favorite roles: Nancy in *Oliver!* and Sister Robert Anne in *Nunsense!* She is a retired teacher (History, Theatre, Graphic Design) from the College Board Award-Winning Fine Arts Faculty of Girls Preparatory School. At GPS she was awarded Teacher of the Year and Distinguished Teacher Emeritus. Zanne was Artistic Director at Oak Street Playhouse for ten years. Being a founding member of the improvisational comedy troupe "Chattanooodle," directed by Rex Knowles and Sherry Landrum, teaching tap-dancing at The New School and working on the creative panel for the Center for Concept Development in New York City were favorite, fun times. The national scope of that concept work is still on store shelves today. She would like to extend a special hello to her improv group in New York, "Play-by-Play"; Many thanks to the talented cast and Stage Manager Rodney Strong (her favorite manager for putting on a show), to ASM Kristina Selzer, the CTC Production Staff Teams, Designers and Techies. "Special thanks to Josh Ruben for stepping in a few weeks ago to take a lead role and for his stage combat skills." says Zanne. "Thank you Becki Jordan for standing-in for actors, Amanda Wills for your magical sewing talents, Lynn Strong for chauffeuring, and Rob Inman for his special friendship to our production. Also, thanks to Catherine Bolden (my GPS Co- Director and Creative Education Designer for over 30 years) for our musical playlists. Theatre at heart is always a service."



**ADAM MIECIELICA** (Scenic Designer and CTC Technical Director) officially joined the CTC team this summer, although he's no stranger to its productions. He received his MFA in Scenic Design and Technical Production from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He has worked professionally designing and working on tech for many theatres across the country including The Santa Fe Opera in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Northern Stage in White River Junction, Vermont, and The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey in Madison, New Jersey. Adam was Visiting Professor of Scenic Design at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas before teaching at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.



**JEREMY CAMPBELL** (Lighting Designer and CTC Scene Shop Manager) recently joined CTC as Scene Shop Manager and this production marks his second time designing lights for the organization. He has been involved with Chattanooga Theatre Centre as an actor, stage manager, volunteer, and now as a staff member. Jeremy hopes that you enjoy the show and the 100th Season of shows here at CTC.

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**LIOMAR SOSA** (Costume Designer) is an Afro-Latino designer with passions across the whole creative spectrum. He currently studies scenic and costume design as a Senior in the theater department at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He previously designed costumes for August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson* at CTC and works as a technical assistant in the scene shop.



**RODNEY STRONG** (Stage Manager) has been active with CTC since 1990. He has worked on stage as an actor and backstage as Stage Manager in over 50 productions. He is a three-time winner of the Outstanding Stage Award. Some of his favorite acting roles at CTC include Norman in *The Boys Next Door*, Arvide in *Guys and Dolls*, Mr. Carn in *Oklahoma*, Van Helsing in *Dracula* and three times as Maurice in *Beauty and the Beast*.

Rodney, also, serves on the CTC Board of Directors. Rodney thanks his wife, Lynn, for her support of his theatre hobby.



**KRISTINA SELZER** (Assistant Stage Manager) After many years away, Kristina is thrilled to have made her way back to the theatre world. She developed an affinity for backstage work (particularly the sound board) while attending GPS many moons ago and studied music and live sound production in undergrad before deciding to become a veterinarian instead (because those two things make total sense together). Now

she is a veterinarian by day, Assistant Stage Manager extraordinaire by night. Kristina's first CTC production was last season's *Something Rotten*, and she loved it so much she immediately returned for this show. She would like to thank the amazing cast and crew of "Woolf" for welcoming her with open arms and a lot of snacks.

## WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

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# MEET THE STAFF



**RODNEY VAN VALKENBURG** (Executive Director) started his career at The Little Theatre in 1983 as the first full-time Youth Theatre director. He served for more than 18 years as Director of Programs and as Director of Education. Before coming back to the CTC in 2020, he was Vice President of ArtsBuild. Highlights at the CTC include the Youth Theatre representing the U.S. at the International Theatre Camp in Zelenograd,

Russia. Rodney also served as Artistic Director of the camp in Narva, Estonia. He has directed over 80 plays at the CTC, including many Youth Theatre productions, *Vintage Hitchcock*, *Boeing, Boeing*, and *Annie*. He has also been seen onstage in *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Newsies*, *A Room with a View*, *Les Misérables*, *The Producers*, and *Anything Goes*. Rodney has been a participant in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Partners in Education program since 2003 and served on the program's Advisory Committee. He served as the coordinator for the ChattanoogaHamilton County Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child site, also through the Kennedy Center. Rodney has also served as a grant panelist with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Tennessee Arts Commission. He serves as Tennessee State Captain for the Americans for the Arts' National Arts Action Summit in Washington, D.C. He is a past president of the Tennessee Theatre Association and served on the executive committee of the Southeastern Theatre Conference. He received his MFA in Acting and Directing from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Rodney shares his passion for theatre with his son, Jake, who lives in Atlanta.



**RACHEL CARROLL** (Marketing Manager) Joined Chattanooga Theatre Centre in early March. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Lee University and a Master of Public Administration from UTC. After moving to Chattanooga six years ago, she has been an advocate for local arts and participated in the Holmberg Arts Leadership Academy in 2019. Her work in fundraising, communications, and marketing as well as her

love for theatre makes her particularly excited to join the CTC team and promote the 100th Anniversary. In her free time, Rachel enjoys spending time with her two Australian Shepherds, Godzilla and Nessie, and her husband Zachary.



**ANNIE COLLINS** (Production Manager) has been found on stage and backstage at CTC for over a decade. Growing up, she was an active member of the Youth Theatre and TheatreQuest. In recent years, she's been a Scenic Assistant at CTC and the Scenic Designer for our production of *Alabama Story*. Annie last appeared on the CTC stage as Henrietta Angkatell in *The Hollow*. Some of her favorite roles include

Beatrice (*A Servant of Two Masters*), Gretchen (*Boeing, Boeing*), Bad Idea Bear (*Avenue Q*), Emily (*Our Town*), and all the fun roles she's played with the Muse of Fire Project. She is a graduate of UTC with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. When she's not at the theatre, she enjoys reading, theme parks, and the outdoors with her dogs and husband.



**SCOTT DUNLAP** (Director of Productions) is an alumnus of CTC's Youth Theatre program, graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in 1996, and was a member of their 1997 Acting Company. This season marks his 26th on staff at CTC, starting as Youth Theatre Designer from 1997 until 2000. He has been onstage in numerous CTC productions, including Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, Roger DeBris in *The Producers*, and the

Baker in *Into the Woods*. His long history of directing often includes designing elements of his own productions. Some of his favorites include *Almost, Maine*, *The Best Man*, *Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *Dark of the Moon*, *Hair*, *Love/Sick*, *Mr. & Mrs. M*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Ring Round the Moon*, *A Room with a View*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Xanadu*, and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* in 2005, 2009, and 2018.



**JUSTIN GASS** (Front of House/Event Manager) started working last May in the Box Office, and recently became our Front of House/Event Manager. Justin was born and raised here in Chattanooga, TN. He participated in several of our youth theatre productions on and off stage growing up. Justin studied theatre at Depaul University and was certified in Event Planning at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. He has over

twenty years of experience in the service industry including management and events. Recently moving back home, Justin is thrilled to be back at the theatre which he always has considered a second home.



**JEFF HILL** (Business Manager) as a long-time volunteer, Jeff has been involved at the Chattanooga Theatre Centre for nearly four decades. He has appeared in numerous productions. In addition to his on-stage performance experience, he has also volunteered backstage, stage managed shows, coordinated special events, run sound and lights, and worked in the scene shop, costume shop and front of house. Jeff

attended Mercer University, where he studied music theatre performance and accounting. He also has a freelance event planning company and produces unique cakes, food, and floral designs. He is very delighted to become part of the staff here at the Theatre Centre, a place so near and dear to his heart.



**MARY ELIZA HENDRICKS** (Education & Innovation Assistant) is a Chattanooga native who graduated with a B.A. Theatre Degree from Emory and Henry College in 2021, and has been working as a theatre artist in the Chattanooga area ever since. Her directing credits include: *Love Letters* and *Tin Cat Shoes* with the Mountain Arts Theatre, *A Stroll Down Holiday Lane* at the MACC, and *The Y Play* at the Chattanooga

Theatre Centre. Mary Eliza choreographed *Mamma Mia* and *Newsies* at Signal Mountain Middle High School and was previously a teaching artist intern at the Atlanta Shakespeare Company, teaching theatre to all ages. She also fancies herself on stage from time to time. She is excited to continue exploring new and exciting ways to tell stories with you!

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**CRIS KING** (Costume Shop Manager) is thrilled to be CTC's Costume Shop Manager! Cris joined the CTC family performing in the 2021 production of *Vintage Hitchcock* and later volunteered in the costume shop. She joined the team officially just in time to help with *Aladdin Jr.* Cris hails from Birmingham, AL, and moved to Chattanooga with her beautiful fiancée Ramsay in 2019. Together they raise two rowdy black cats, Finn and Poe.



**KITTY MURAKAMI** (Box Office Assistant) moved here from Ocala, Florida, in 2015. She was raised in upstate New York, graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy, and has lived in great places like Denver and Maui. Her first and only experience with theatre (other than high school plays) started as a costume shop volunteer at Ocala Civic Theatre for two years. After retiring as a pharmacist and moving to Chattanooga, she continued volunteering at CTC in the costume shop and is currently the Box Office Assistant. "It has been an honor and a privilege as well as a wonderful learning experience to be involved with this organization. CTC is blessed to have such an amazing facility, talented dedicated staff and volunteers, and such supportive patrons."



**CHUCK TUTTLE** (Director of Education & Innovation) holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Children's Theatre and Creative Drama from the University of Texas at Austin and has over 30 years of experience doing theatre with and for young people. His professional background includes serving as Director of Education at Austin Theatre for Youth in Austin, Texas, and Children's Theatre Workshop in Pleasanton, California. Chuck has taught theatre classes to all ages in acting, playwriting, technical theatre, William Shakespeare, voice, movement, improvisation, and comedy, among others. As an actor, he has taken on the roles of Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, Joaquin in *El Californio*, Simon in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, and Billy Crocker in *Anything Goes* (which he performed in Hokkaido, Japan). Directing credits include *Waiting for Godot*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *The Nightingale*, *The Crucible*, *Once on This Island*, *God of Carnage*, *A Year With Frog and Toad*, and *Go, Dog, Go!* Chuck has written several stage adaptations, including *Plant, Grow, Pick* for CTC's Theatre for the Very Young program.

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Coylee Bryan  
Ilanthe Bryant  
Amy Burton  
Ed Burwitz  
Martha Butterfield  
David Cagle  
Neshawn Calloway  
Forrest & Melissa Campbell  
Paul & Emily Campbell  
Dr. & Mr. Sandra Carmichael  
Mary Carlson-Waddell  
Tom & Judy Carter  
Ann Cater  
Marilyn Center  
Andrew Chauncey  
Bonnie Chichka  
Jody & Chuck Clevenger  
Juleen Collins  
Al & Christina Colonna  
Ron & Martha Colvin  
Howard Wayne Cook  
Eleanor Cooper  
Jack & Mary Cooper  
Douglas Cooper  
Marjorie Cooper  
Oaul & Ana Cornea  
Janice Cosey  
Braxton Cotton  
Jewell Cousin  
Jonnice Cox  
Jeremy Coylewright  
April Crenshar  
Anthony & Gwyn Crutcher  
Shirley Cunningham  
Kyra Daley  
Elaine Danford  
John Daugherty  
Lori D. Dautrich  
Grant & Tamara Davis  
Jim and Philomena Davis  
Kim Davis  
Lloyd & Barbara Davis  
Nick Decosimo  
Suzanne & Richard Decredico  
Deborah Defiglia  
Melissa De Lap  
Juanita Del Pino  
David & Tara Diercks  
Eleanor Dodson  
Sheryl Dodson  
Hayley Duncan

Kristina Dyess  
Jeni Elliott  
Kelley Elliott  
Blake Elsea  
Barbara Erickson  
Karen Erwin  
Charlotte & Mark Estabrook  
Martin Fish  
Carolyn Fitzpatrick  
Mike Flores  
Kitty Forbes  
Janneke Fowers  
Lindsay Fussell  
Judith Gallagher  
Joshua Garcia  
The Giannotti Family  
Patt Gibson  
Sarah Gibson  
Caroline Giles  
Amber Gillespie  
Richard & Lisa Glisson  
Greg Glover  
Doris Greenberg  
Eric Greeson  
Patty Greiner  
Kelly Grosse  
Kaye Hagadorn  
Marlene Haigh  
Annie Hall  
TJ Hanretta  
Jayne Harbour  
Charles Harden  
Dee Ann Harrington  
Susan Harper  
Jennifer Harper  
Blake Harris  
Tina Harrison  
Elaine & George Hatch  
Paul Hendricks  
Tonya Helton  
Eva Herberich  
J. David Hester  
Gregory Highwood  
Jeff Hill  
Babette Hinnard  
David & Page Houseman  
Donna Hunter  
Kristin Huntley  
Myra Ireland  
Elia Jada  
Sean Jagels  
Brandy Johnson  
William & Sherry Johnson  
Lee Johnson  
Nikki Johnson  
Howard Kaplan

Duane Kapp  
 Denise Karnes  
 Everett & Helga Kidder  
 Rex & Sherry Knowles  
 Katrina Kyner  
 Gary & Millie Lander  
 Kathleen Landry  
 Faith & Erik Larson  
 Alex Laudeman  
 Trena Lawson  
 Allan Ledford  
 Susan Lee  
 Lynda LeVan  
 Anita Levine  
 Greg & Loreen (Lori) Lewis  
 Shalou Li  
 Kristin Lowery  
 Melissa & Shane Loyd  
 Jane Lupton  
 Bea Lurie  
 Roland M Carter  
 Edna Macdonald  
 Deb Mangolt  
 Cheri Markham-Couter  
 Cherie Martinez  
 Terry Matthews  
 Ken & Beth Maury  
 June McBride  
 Jordan McCarter  
 Beth McClary-Wolford  
 Diane McCluskey  
 Dorothy McDuffie  
 Scott & Susan Mckenzie  
 Ruth McMillan  
 Susy Meier & Martin Houston  
 Jed Mescon  
 Noland Mickens  
 Rosemary & Jim Milburn  
 Megen Mims  
 Danny Mince  
 Ginny Minninger  
 Georgianna Mitchell  
 Rob & Sandy Morris  
*in memory of Chuck Mull*  
 Leonard Murray  
 Beth Mortensen  
 James and Bess Nunally  
 Vincent Oakes & Family  
 Mark & Arden Oglesby  
 Barbara & Sheldon Oxenhandler  
 Treva Parker  
 James Patching  
 Lucas Patterson  
 David Pendergraft  
 Julie Perry  
 Tara Phillips  
 Karen Phillips  
 Nancy Pickus  
 Ann Ploetz  
 Johaina Poonawalla & Salim Virani  
 Becky Pope  
 Charles & Mary Portera  
 Leigh Ann Potter  
 Patricia Poteralski  
 Lucy Powell  
 Cheryl Powell  
 Joshua Presnall  
 Cindy Price  
 Patsy Radel  
 Arlette Ramirez  
 Holly Randolph  
 Teresa Ramadan  
 Juliana Ratliff  
 Steve Ray  
 Todd Ray  
 Cari Reynolds  
 Karla Riddle  
 Carol Rife  
 Lucinda Ringer  
 Anne & Pete Rittenberry  
 Dixie Joanna Roe  
 Jim Samples  
 Carolyn Sandlin  
 Jacquelyn Sands  
 Brandi Santiwan  
 Karen Sarnosky  
 Kathleen Schein  
 Henry & Rachel Schulson  
 Judy Schwartz  
 Charles Sedgwick  
 Virginia Anne Sharber  
 Gail Shiminski  
 Laurie Shipley  
 Michele Simmons  
 Felicity Anne Smallwood  
 Sandy Smith  
 John & Susan Smith  
 Catherine Smith  
 Mac Smotherman  
 Linda Sneary  
 Lyndsay Sneckenberger  
 Robert Sneed  
 Debra Socia  
 JP Soldo  
 Louise Spector  
 Gary & Marcia Stevens  
 Kaihan Strain  
*in honor of Kaihan Strain*  
 Kim & Ewing Strang  
*in memory of Robert "Bob" Strange*  
 The Suhrbier Family  
 Karla Sulzycki  
 Janis Swanson  
 Tom & Joanne Swanson  
 Rev. Gordon Temple  
 John Maynard & Rhea Thurman  
 Dan and Linda Thomas  
 Leda Tonto  
 Phil Trammell  
 Pete Traynor  
 Rufus Triplett  
 Randy Tunison  
 Jody Ursey  
 Todd Van Valkenburg  
 Sheril Varghese  
 Sherri Vining  
 Imre & Jean Volgyi  
 James Ward  
 Gen Warren  
 Elsie Weill  
 Timothy Whalen  
 Janet Wile  
 Lea Anne Wiles  
 Connie Williams  
 Pam Williams  
 Tina Williams  
 Rebecca Witt  
 Will & Weston Whitmire  
 Shelia Wofford  
 Ann Woody  
 Kathy York  
 Melanie Young  
 Chen Zhang

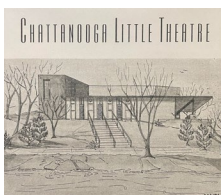


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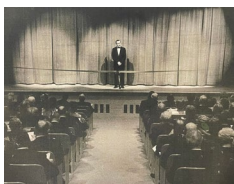
# 1960-1969

## at Chattanooga Theatre Centre

The 1960s were a significant time of action and change, both in the country and for the Chattanooga Little Theatre, also known as CLT. In the late 1950s we began to grow out of the space we'd called home for 30 years, the old Fire Hall No. 4 on the corner of East 8th Street and Park Avenue. Additional shows were being scheduled to accommodate increasing audience numbers, and the facility was starting to show its age. Not to mention, parking was impossible. President of the Board Ms. Vera Munson started to set the gears in motion to build the CLT a modern, state of the art theatre facility. She presented plans for a facility to be built in the Highland Park area, but these plans were shelved after her sudden death in a car accident. Her plans were soon revised by the new Board, and a new location was proposed in North Chattanooga.



With a spot procured, all we needed was a quarter of a million dollars to build it. Mrs. Mildred Montague, the granddaughter of E. Y. Chapin, our very first board president, was elected finance chairman and soon got to work, raising all funds necessary in record time. Board Presidents Fielding Atchley and Alfred Smith, and resident director James Cavan, oversaw the details of the planning and building process. In the spring of 1962, CLT performed the last production on the Fire Hall stage, *The Happiest Millionaire*. On November 16, 1962, just 6 months later, the new building on the river was opened with the production of *Light Up the Sky*, a comedy.



In 1963, the CLT was very interested in honoring and honing new talent in the community and beyond. They hosted a national playwriting contest and began offering classes! “The theater training classes will be formulated to teach interested young people the means and methods of theatre art” reads a 1963 newspaper article, announcing the educational addition to the theatre’s programming. Continuing their growth, Albert Gresham was hired in 1965 to be the CLT’s resident director, and worked as such until 1983. Hailing from Memphis, Gresham was quickly heralded for his quality and versatility as a director.

In 1964, Humphrey Heywood became president, and set his sights on the creation of a Circle Theatre for children’s productions. While the CLT had produced children’s theatre sporadically since its beginning, Heywood dreamed of a dedicated space for continual programming. The physical Circle Theatre was not added on to the preexisting building until the 1970s, after help from Mildred Montague again in raising money for the project. Even so, the presence of children’s productions and opportunities for teens greatly expanded in the 1960s under Heywood’s leadership. Heywood remained board president of the CLT until 1979.

This history was prepared by the  
CTC Historical Committee and written by  
Mary Eliza Hendricks



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